

May 9, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist *HS*

RE: Field Inspection, Thomas Peck & Sons Mining, Nephi Gypsum Mine, M/023/011, Juab County, Utah

Location:

I visited the Nephi Gypsum mine site the morning of May 6, 1988. The mine is located 1.5 miles east of Nephi on the Highway 132 exit from I-15 into Nephi drive to the center of town, then turn east.

File Status:

Tentative approval for the mine plan was made on January 25, 1988. Final approval was given on April 28, 1988 after the posting of a \$15,000. letter of credit to cover the reclamation surety.

Field Inspection:

The operator has been mining the crown and face of a very steep hillside. The natural slopes vary from 27° to 30°. The mining has left several vertical rock faced highwalls at the upper extent of the disturbance. Also several large slopes at the angle of a repose, 37° have been created by waste dumping from the slopes above. The slopes are very unstable and showed signs of future slumping (fracture cracks on the road above).

Much of this site is unstable except for the vertical rock walls. No sign of earlier seeding attempts were evident to me.

Rabbitbrush has volunteered at the base of the operator's materials stockpile, where fines and nutrients have accumulated. The rabbitbrush is not abundant and does not cover but a small portion of material at the base of the pile.

The 2 to 3 foot berm found protecting Salt Creek from the disturbance is breached in two places. Erosion gullies have formed and drainage from the site is entering the creek.

I saw no topsoil storage on the site. The site had been impacted pre-law so no topsoil was saved.

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Site Status:

The site is an eyesore and can be seen from I-15 and the town of Nephi. The site will present an air quality problem, if reactivated. The operator has had problems with dust, when operating in the past. The site currently presents a sedimentation problem to Salt Creek which flows past its northern perimeter. The berm protecting Salt Creek needs to be repaired. The site has some slope stability problems.

Recommendations:

1. Notify the operator regarding the repair of the Salt Creek berm.
2. Notify the operator concerning the slope stability concern.

cc: L. Braxton
F. Filas
hs
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